



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DELTA BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 31ST FIELD ARTILLERY
5955 NE ROTHWELL STREET
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503-4478

May 9, 2016

Dear Families and Friends of Delta Battery,

Greetings from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, I'm pleased to write you again concerning your Soldier who has been here for Basic Combat Training. As promised in my previous letter, I have enclosed some items you may find useful while making arrangements to attend the upcoming graduation ceremony: a local area map and an activities/events schedule.

A good many of the letters will include visitor passes for those who followed the process outlined in the welcome letter. We do realize that many of you received the letter after the deadline to send in the request. If you are in this category and did not receive a visitor pass with this letter visitation is still possible. You will need to arrive the day prior, or plan for an early morning to get a same day request at the Visitor Control Center (6701 Sheridan Road, Fort Sill, OK. 73503 (580)442-9603).

There are some opportunities for you to see and visit with your Soldier in conjunction with Family Day and Graduation activities, but it is important you adhere to the time lines on the enclosed schedule. You will only be able to see your Soldier during the times designated.

I highly encourage you to attend both Family Day and Graduation. The Family Day activities will be held on **June 9, 2016 at 9:00am** on the battery drill pad. It will consist of briefings and a demonstration of what your Soldier has been doing here in Basic Training. Please plan to arrive in the battery area **NO EARLIER** than **8:15am**. However, I do recommend getting through the gate early as this time typically is the highest volume traffic coming on Fort Sill each day.

On Family Day the battery will have a Family Readiness Group (FRG) booth set up with DVDs containing all the pictures taken by the battery during the cycle available. The FRG is a vital support group for the Families of our Drill Sergeants and Cadre who often go without seeing their Husbands, Wives, Mothers, and Fathers almost every day during a training cycle. These Families make great sacrifices to ensure Drill Sergeants and Cadre are able to fully focus on transforming volunteers into Soldiers.

Graduation is scheduled for **Friday, June 10, 2016 at 10:00am**. We will conduct the ceremony at Cache Creek Chapel Complex (6043 Rothwell St, Lawton, OK 73503). Please refer to the enclosed maps for assistance with directions. Taking photographs of the graduation ceremony is encouraged; however, due to Fort Sill's force protection policies we ask you to refrain from taking photographs of outside areas, buildings,

structures, or entrances/exits to Fort Sill. I thank you in advance for your cooperation. You can also find information on Ft. Sill and the Lawton area at the chamber of commerce website: www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com.

Those Soldiers who have met all the graduation requirements and who are not pending any disciplinary action will be eligible to receive an off-post pass after Family Day activities from the conclusion of the briefing until 8 pm and an off-post pass after graduation up to one hour before they will depart on government transportation or 8 pm, whichever comes first. The graduation day pass depends entirely on government transportation availability. The time and duration of the pass is subject to change due to time constraints and/or unit mission. While away from the unit area, I ask for your support in ensuring your Soldier acts responsibly. This pass is an earned privilege and it is very important Soldiers return to the unit at the correct time, fully prepared to complete the graduation ceremony and other required duties. During Family Day I will brief you and your Soldier on what is allowed or prohibited while on pass.

Please remember that every Soldier must meet all graduation requirements. There are a number of things which can delay a Soldier graduating from Basic Combat Training. The most common issues are related to physical fitness and performance on the Army Physical Fitness Test. This being the case I will make no guarantee as to whether each Soldier will graduate. It is not unusual to see graduation rates around 90%. Keep this in mind when purchasing tickets and making arrangements because you will NOT be reimbursed for anything by the Army. Please continue to encourage your Soldier to push themselves to ensure they meet or exceed the standard. Having the conversation with them early about what areas they struggle with can help you shape your encouragement to achieve the greatest impact.

If I can be of assistance in an urgent matter relating to your Soldier, please feel free to write or call me. If you need to reach the unit you may call (580)442-0116, but I encourage you to first read through all information on the battery Facebook page as we tend to post answers to common questions there. To reach our page search "D/1-31 Field Artillery" it should be the first one in the results. My e-mail address is wesley.e.martin9.mil@mail.mil. I look forward to meeting you and hope you are able to attend your Soldier's graduation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley E. Martin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wesley E. Martin
Captain, Field Artillery
Commanding